Letter of 18/9/74

18/9/74

EbB not swearing

Immense lovers — love as verb p 6

Date of L. of P.

Stow's Survey.

Date of L.P. shown by social poems by malignant interests deprav, p. 8

Rivers Dee & Severn etc, Llyn Tegid etc

The Hopkins ref. most unfortunate

Troy Queen & Margaret in honour of Princess M. & one reigning monarch (i.e. of New Troy?)

* 'gotta nymph for a mother' p. 6

V

c/o The Little Company of Mary
Calvary Nursing Home, Sudbury Hill
Harrow on the Hill
Middlesex

Wednesday Sept. 18th 1974.

Dearest René

Many thanks for yr letter & enclosed with it Two years before the Mast & also another letter enclosing printed index or Agenda of the names given to our Lady – this I have already mislaid – it is un-nerving how I mislay things – usually things of the greatest interest – I thought I might have put it with Two years before the Mast – but no.

Still not found yr letter you mention after yr having received safe the typescript of Rite & Foretime – but I think that must have got lost in the post.

Anyway gave to be posted the typescript of section II, Middle Sea & Lear Sea & section III Angle-land – the latter posted yesterday Tuesday. please God that you may have received on Thursday 19th.

I agree we both should have efficient private secretaries – but that is out of the question & even if we had such I doubt if that would be any use.

I'm glad you liked what I told you of Eb. Brassans & 'boozed Murphy' but at the end of yr last letter you say 'Of course Eb B would have said 'not for no bloody Murphy's pope (Oh! dear I cant find that page now – but it was said as a kind of postscript as the post was going) But I refer to it here because Eb B. would not have used, 'not for no bloody Murphy's pope.' because as I said in a previous letter he never used 'strong language' rather like Chaucer's prioresse 'whose greatest oath was but cly St Loy': but his 'greatest oath' ~~[illegible]~~ was, if really angry or determined – 'No I will not, not for the Pope of Rome' that is verbatim from my mother, it was I in writing The Ana who changed for reasons ~~of~~ inherent in the text, the Pope of Rome into 'the Scarlet Pondiff of the West' – I do not think Eb. B associated Murphy with 'Irish bull' & that with Papal Bull the 'in curial cursive and leaded' was also ~~my [illegible]~~ of my making for the same reason as my changing The Pope of Rome into 'The Scarlet Pontiff of the West'. I used the raw material of what my mother told. The figure of the 'boozed Murfy' retained becau of this ability as a workman & general intelligence was straight from my mother, ~~as~~ which perhaps I should have mention in a ~~note to [illegible]~~ footnote ~~to~~ page 119, ~~but, after all, I was not writing~~ but it did not seem necessary. ~~For after~~ all so much of that part from "Eb Bradshaw, Princes Stair, replacement of sheaves to the 'running-blocks' – 'new dead-eyes for the standing shrouds', 'not for a gratis load of the sound teak in Breakers yard' – 'best float of Oregon – all that or those terms & site names such as 'Dockhead' & 'Princes Stair' were direct reportage of what my mother had mention – as also 'cash in buttons' – & 'bonded stuff' – and even 'Trinity Brethren' for, she said, ~~From~~ that 'Trinity House was much revered & of necessity*, for it was of great ~~authority~~ authority over the affairs of the Pool of London. (wasn't Old Churchill in our day honoured by being made Master of Trinity House?)

hence 'them I must needs respect' on page 119

& 'caps in hand for a month of Sundays' ~~[illegible]~~. also was from my mother.

Sorry, but this would involve too long a thing

'Not if the Holy Ghost made ready to blow on his mainsail' is not direct from my mother's reportage but ~~instead~~ indirect from some such expression of as 'if ~~the~~ the heavens blew convenient'! Eb. B. would ~~[illegible]~~, I think, refrain from saying 'Not if the Holy Ghost' etc. as ~~blasphemous~~ somewhat blasphemous.

~~The background, so-to-say, of the stuff that on page 118 about the skipper from Sicily or thereabouts in the Med Mediterranean was based on an incident of which my mother told me. The vessel from the Middle Sea lay in the Pool of London and sent in some message either directly or indirectly to Eb. B. to come with his few workmen as urgent repairs were needed. Eb. B. rowed out with his men to the waiting ship, was taken aboard her & when he saw that there was much more to be done than he had been given to understand required to do the job or jobs but that it take that day & the next. This [illegible] was communicated to the Sicily-skipper who became angry & pleading for terms owing to the heavy harbour dues that would accrue. Eb. B. said the Harbour dues were not his concern, but~~

3

This business of repeating what one has said before is a difficulty.

I have remembered one thing you ask about a chap (Celtic) who is called 'of the silver arm'.

That is Nuada of the Silver ~~hand~~ arm surely. the same bloke as Nodens, Lir, Leir, etc and ~~[illegible]~~ in Irish-~~Cel~~ Celtic ~~Nuada~~ it would be Nuada Airgetlám but in Welsh-Celtic ~~Er~~ Ereint, 'Lludd of the Silver Hand' Lludd Llaw

Yes in the Irish story Nuada has one arm severed in battle & he belongs to that very, very early strata of Irish mythos – of ~~those~~ ~~strata~~ the ~~Celt~~ prehistoric Indo-European pantheon. I take it that the Airetlám ~~the~~ -lám means ~~[illegible]~~ 'arm' whereas the Welsh llaw means hand; anyway obviously the same demi-god.

There was also another thing you asked about, Deva. I recognize your quotation but can't find where it occurs & have mislaid or can't find the sheet of your written letter in which it occurs & which, I think, gives the page ref. I thought it must be in Rite & fortune but can't find it –

Look on page 69 of The Ana, bottom of page Shoulders of the ~~M~~iad of Sabrina & Sybylline Dee in that both rivers were affected by glacial action. Damnation is only I could find the quotation you give. Anyway the point is that Deva was the Roman name for both Chester & the river Dee and at some very remote geological epoch the river flowed in the opposite direction from its present course. I used to know all about that because of reading ~~any~~ some of those

arian
ariant
'silver' in Mod Welsh.

Yes as in
Lug Lámfada
'Lug of the Long Arm'

I've just by a lucky accident come ~~[illegible]~~ upon a reference to Lug and after 'Lug of the Long Arm' is, ~~[illegible]~~ in square brackets [or hand]

The same reference says that Nuada lost one ~~an~~ arm in battle ~~battle~~ of the First Battle of Mag Tuired, when Nuada was King of ~~the~~ Tuatha Dé Danann but the loss of his arm made it impossible for him to remain King.

Another chap
the tutelar
of a number
of place-names
Lugdunum
in Gaul
Luguvalium
~~Carlisle~~
(Carlisle)
Lyons
Leyden
in the Low
Countries.
Where in
The Dream of
Pte Clitus
Clitus says
of the day
in the Teutoburg
Forest fight
this unit
was based
a furlong outside
our transport
wharf base
in the estuary
at Lugdunum
& the river mouth'
that Lugdunum became
Leyden.
~~ve~~

I expect you could get it in Cork Univ.
It is a book descriptive of the themes common to the Irish & Welsh deposits & links certain themes with those of India: Vishnu & the Gods of Hinduism, the Rāmāyana.
all as Jessie Weston connected ~~the~~ 'Grail' theme with the Rig Vedic scriptures.

I've never read it properly, but here & there. It is very complex indeed, but contains some remarkable link ups. You might find references that you wanted. Its range of scholarship is very wide and I think the 'specialists' in 1961 complained of it because of the ground it covered.

The Book in which I found the proper is Celtic Heritage by Alwyn & Brinley Rees 1961 Thames & Hudson

The mention of Leyden reminds ~~[illegible]~~ me of a joke we used to have about 'The Man from Amsterdam', but can't imagine what it was about. Was it in a stage-play we went to?

Regional geological books publ— by H.M. Stationery Office & also bo book on geology that Harman gave me in the 1940s.

Just found another entry on page 67 Rite & Fore-Time.

Long, long ago they'd turned the flow about
But had they as yet morained

~~where~~ holy Deva's entry is?

or pebbled this mere, where
still the parthenos

she makes her devious exit"

But I don't think that ~~was~~ is one passage for

enquiry about, is it?

But ~~the Note~~ Note ① on p. 67 ~~gives the~~
Bala or Pemble-mere is called Llyn Tegid etc
& also helps to explain the last two ~~[illegible]~~ lines 2
page 66 & Note 2 on that page ~~[illegible]~~ explain the matter
a bit more.

But the constant folk-belief that ~~[illegible]~~ Afon Dyfrdwy, (the River Dee in English) flows through Bala lake but it its waters do not mix with those of y Bala meaning a ~~[illegible]~~ hollow place where a river flows from a lake, the Dee has its source somewhere on high ground south west of y Bala. There is a 'village' of some sort called Bala ~~at the~~ on the North-east end of the lake and I think most people think of Bala as the source of the Dee & ~~that~~ the place-name Bala took its name from the Lake. There is a 'pier' of some sort just at that north-east corner of the Lake. The lake itself is I suppose about 4 or 5 miles long & less than a mile wide & runs I suppose from south west to north-east as diamond. is near South West to north-east as damnit. I've never been there. It's usually called in Welsh Llyn Tegid, ~~The River Dee~~, Afon Dyfrdwy as noted ~~[illegible]~~ above ~~is called the~~ River Dee ~~[illegible]~~ & Deva in Latin. As noticed in on page 69 Note 3, the name Dyfrdwy has always be considered ~~s[illegible]~~ sacral but some have interpreted the word Dyfrdwy as meaning the 'devine water'. I do not understand properly why ~~dy~~ for dyfr mean water and dwy word ~~[illegible]~~ usually mean 'two', but it was used to equate with Duw, God, & dwyfol as an adjective was used for ~~devine~~ 'devine' – But I don't know

Strictly speaking the small town should be call Y Bala. ~~is by proper~~ ~~[illegible]~~. It is curious how in Welsh ~~some place names~~ ~~[illegible]~~ some site-names have the definite article Y or Yr

e.g. ~~Y Barri~~ Y Barri (Barry)
or Y Grysmwnt (Grosmont)
also in some names of countries
as Yr Aifft (Egypt.) Yr Alban (Scotland)
Yr Eidal (Italy)
Yr Almaen (Germany) but Iwerddon (Ireland)
or Prydain (Britain) Awstria (Austria)
come all without the definite article Y.

meant what in English

~~Y~~ Y Môr Canoldir (the Mediterranean Sea)
y (the) môr (sea) canol (middle) dir (land mutation of tir)
so our 'Middle-Sea and Lear-sea' ~~[illegible]~~ is not without precedent – backing with ancient saw our modern instance, that is desirable both ways. Almost a necessity with me.

anything like enough Welsh or any other etymology to know what -dwy means in this case of Dyfrdwy. The glen through which the present course runs is called Glyndyfrdwy & that is why Owen Glendower is in Welsh Owain Glyn Dŵr. (~~[illegible] dŵr [illegible]~~ ~~means 'water' & is [illegible]~~ (dŵr is another form of ~~[illegible]~~ dwfr – water.) Owain Glyndŵr ~~[illegible]~~ chanced to hold part of his estates in part of the Valley of Dee. In some official documents of this period he is called Baron Glendourdy (or B. de Glendourdy) That's how we get the accepted English form Owen Glendower. –

Well this does not get us further in ~~[illegible]~~ replying to your question about Deva — and I still can't find where it is in text.

If only I could find the ref. in your letter. The words about Deva are so familiar to me ~~&~~ I suppose they must be in Rite & Fore-time but can't trace.

Anyway you will see from what I said in this letter & the ~~[illegible]~~ Foot-Notes in The Anathemata in pages of Rite & Fore-time for I suppose it must be in that section. At least you will ~~see~~ ~~that~~ a very special thing ~~[illegible]~~ attaches to ~~River~~ Dee. ~~It is~~ and ~~the~~ Llyn Tegid is chock-a-block with legend of all sorts for one thing the ~~[illegible]~~ sorceress Caridwen or Keritwen lived ~~under~~ the waters of Llyn Tegid, with her husband, ~~[illegible]~~ Tegid Voel their daughter being ~~[illegible]~~ ~~[illegible]~~ Creiwy – called ~~[illegible]~~ ~~Kegit Forwyn o byt 'the most beautiful maiden in the world'~~ ~~in the Hanes Hanes Taliesin Tegkaf morwyn~~. in the Hanes Taliesin ~~[illegible]~~ tegkaf morwyn o'r byt 'the most beautiful puella in ~~the world~~ world' & the love of Garwy Hir. She, Creiwy, is called ~~the~~ puella pulcherrima in a French Breton ~~[illegible]~~ source.

In one official document the English clerk made a real howler ~~which~~ is so often quoted with ~~[illegible]~~ amusement ~~[illegible]~~ because it used ap (son of) I can't quote it here for I have not the ref. I require but it runs something in this fashion: Owen ap Glendourdy! you can imagine the varying forms of amusement & irritation this word causes. Some have supposed that Owain himself, when he saw the document ~~[illegible]~~ said: "~~Well~~ I have been ~~thought to~~ charged with various qualities but never before as being the son of Afon Dyfrdwy."

But rivers are the habitat of naiades & nymphs and in rendering half-consciously that Glyn Dŵr in the English document implied that he had a nymph for a mother

Suggested to me in the Dream of Pte Clitus

Clitus theory that Oenomaus who was from Arcady jestingly said to his Greek mate & gotta a nymph for a sister? So jolly odd how things with no possible connection quite accidentally causes the writer to use this or that, in this case 'nymphs'

Voel

the bald [head]

moel means a bare hill ~~[illegible]~~ top, or just a hill e.g. Moel ~~[illegible]~~ Famma Y Foel Fenlli etc

V would be F in Mod. Welsh

In ~~mod~~ modern Welsh it would be tegaf morwyn o'r byd

teg = beauty & the ~~af~~ af ~~[illegible]~~ makes it most beautiful

Cf. Cariad = love cariadaf most beloved.

Yes those Ordnance Survey maps of Britain in the Roman period & those of the 'Dark Age' period are splendid. I used them continually both in Sheffield Terrace & when I came to stay at Mr Carlile's house, Northwick Lodge. But every time one is uprooted one always loses stuff – it's ghastly.

One thing I noticed that is in the Note 2 to page 140 of ~~the~~ *Ana*. (Lady of the Pool section) the note refers to line 4 from bottom of page.

*immenser hovers² dark-ápse her.

unfortunately in Note on 'hovers', ~~Pronou~~ pronounce hoe-vers, noun formed on the verb 'to heave.' perfectly O.K. but it continues Cf. Hopkins The Windhover which is quite wrong for Hopkins was referring the bird 'the Windhover' so to hovering or fluttering about, in fact a windhover is another name for a ~~kestrel~~ kestrel according to the S.O.E. Dict. & is a compound of (wind sb. + ~~hover~~ verb hover.) ~~[illegible]~~ ~~so pronounce wind-ho~~ so nothing to do with ~~heave~~ 'heaving' as I had thought.

'gilted of bends of paly light (using term from armorial bearings) such as the Housel of spume

The 'tilted' ?great heaving waves ~~gunnel~~ level with or over her gunnels*, for as a ref. she could be thought of as a 'nave' so ~~[illegible]~~ with ~~an other~~ mensa but great, ~~tower~~ extra towering waves ~~[illegible]~~ higher than the others, 'immenser hovers' ~~[illegible]~~ rise to, as it were, baldachin or roof & make dark the apse of her, or ~~are themselves~~ themselves ~~are~~ the mobile weight of waters that ~~dark apse her~~ curve above her in somewhat the slow curve of an apse. After all 'hove' as a verb is given in Dict. as obsolete or dialect, past tense hove, past participle hoven in M.E. & also 'Hove' or ~~[illegible]~~ pa.t & pple of heave so I'd merely used the verb as a noun & made it plural. O.K. But the Hopkins ref. was most unfortunate as it is in flat ~~contradiction~~ Contradiction to my 'hovers'. I tried to get it cut out ~~by~~ but was too late for the printers.

*'gunnels under' I think is the nautical term for it.

within this of the
x inverted vault
in Keel [illegible]
Stairs

It is Sat. Sept 21 now. I do hope the Angle Land typescript & letter has reached you safely. It was posted some days ago. This uncertainty of the mail ~~[illegible]~~ is trying.

Blessed black biro won't function & now found one that does.

I wonder if we can find a way of dealing with these many many questions & repeating what we have ~~[illegible]~~ said before, continued on sheet 7

I've not got a copy of Hopkins with me here but when I wrote that note I must have imagined that his 'Windhover' was in some way connected with ~~[illegible]~~ 'hove' in the sense of 'heave.' instead of flutter of ~~pinioned~~ the wing-pinions of a kestrel so that his 'Windhover' would be pronounced wind + hover pronounced hov-ver to rhyme with 'cover' or 'bother' whereas my 'hovers' is meant to rhyme with 'rovers' or 'bowyers'

That sounds as though I did not appreciate the great & careful apperception of
the labour ~~that~~ you have taken ~~to~~ illuminate the text whereas ~~on the~~ on the
Contrary, I do indeed appreciate it, but wonder about
the ~~remaining 4 section~~ remaining ~~[illegible]~~ sections Redriff
The Lady of the ~~Pooter~~ Pool, Keel, Ram & Stauros, ~~Mabinogs~~ Mabinog's Liturgy
& Sherthursdaye & Venus Day; of course you've already covered a
good bit of Redriff but the Lady of the Pool is so packed
with Welsh-Celtic allusions plus ~~the London~~ tradition
of London, both as Londinium & Lundunaborg, of the
Ragnar Lodbrok Saga, 'the ~~greatest~~ greatest of all the ~~[illegible]~~
burhs in the northern lands' on to the ~~medieval~~ late
medieval London of Dick Whittington. It had be dated
~~before the Tudors but after~~ sometime after the ~~the~~ Wales
of the princes & after that of the Glyndŵr rising (1400–1416)
but before the advent of the Tudors, so some ~~time~~
time round about the late 15th Century. For 'the Lady of Pool'
reflected Langland's & Chaucer's medieval London, but it had to foretoken
the epoch of ~~[illegible]~~ England as a maritime power — it was
a tricky business writing this section, very tricky
It had to be within the framework of the Catholic ~~[illegible]~~ Religion
and when Geoffrey of Monmouth's 'Troy Novant' was still
the popular belief, ~~to~~ as mentioned in ~~note to p.130~~
~~the~~ Note 2 page 130, ~~Ludgate~~ carved figures
of Lud & other figures of that cycle ~~were~~ adorned
the ~~western~~ archway of Ludgate ~~and~~ were repaired
or added & there is documentary evidence for this apart
from the popular tales. The date given for
one such repairing, ~~[illegible]~~ '1260', ~~[illegible]~~ in Henry III's reign
I used Stow's Survey of London extensively for
the sites, & showing of churches, indeed he, writing
in Elizabethan London is indispensable, for he
wrote of what he, himself, had seen, ~~[illegible]~~ less than a century
after the defacement of chantry-chapels & the
general effect of the change in Religion. begun
under Henry VIII & fixed to stay by Edward VI. ~~[illegible]~~ except for the short
reign of Mary, ~~Was not himself involved in the~~ Stow was not being
involved in these Changes but was concerned to put on
record what he saw & by collecting
various MSS referring to affairs of
past centuries, he is ~~[illegible]~~ invaluable
~~[illegible]~~ if we wish to know
the atmosphere of that age

8

*Sometimes he is more convincing than had he been strong on one side or the other. He notes for instance a street in the city called 'Undershaft'. I think & explain that a very long Maypole was kept under the eaves of a number of houses until a puritan vicar of the parish who violently hated MayDay frolics, wanted the Maypole taken away. This was not all easy, so men with saws cut it section over the doors of the several houses which they wished to or ~~[illegible]~~. Note, Stow makes no comment as far as I can recall. But one would never guess of the thinking of way of getting rid of a Maypole.

~~For~~ and the odd contradictions, written without comment.* I think but am not certain that he was, like Archbishop Parker, one of first to study ~~[illegible]~~ MSS in Anglo-Saxon. He also ~~[illegible]~~ as were by accident, gives a short ~~[illegible]~~ reference to Thomas Cromwell that indicates something of the character of that ~~[illegible]~~ ~~[illegible]~~ man whose activities we know plenty of from historians. But Stow simply mentions that some London citizen maybe Stow's father – have forgotten, had an orchard or piece of land and he valued, but Master Thomas Cromwell required it for some purpose, and it was useless to dispute with Master Cromwell, ~~[illegible]~~ who acquired that land as his own.

Stow was, I think, a member of one of those various City Merchants, such as Fishmongers Company or the Haberdashers, etc. I rather fancy ~~Stow~~ Stow was a clothier, in any case he had sufficient money to retire very early & devote himself to his study of the London as he knew it and ~~a~~ from MSS of all sorts, charters, records, ~~[illegible]~~ etc, ~~[illegible]~~ muniments of the London of the past, e.g., That stuff about the immolation of the stag on the day before the Kalends of July ~~when they~~ blowed his sweet death at the west door of ~~St Pauls~~ St Pauls, the ~~[illegible]~~ clergy wearing crowns of roses (page 127) was I think taken from Stow & page 126 Note concerning a the rite may also be from Stow – not sure, but 126 Note 14 about Langbourn Ward & St Mary Woolnorth, admits ~~Stow~~ that ~~Stow~~ ~~[illegible]~~ Stow was there my source, and how ~~[illegible]~~ exceedingly ~~beauty~~ beautiful, are his words – it might come from the Liturgy of Blessing the Font or the Exultet Roll but no, just the straight words of a retired City merchant at the end of the 16th Cent or early in the 17th, (can't recall Stow's death date)

"A long bourne of sweet water which of old time... ran to the west ~~part~~ of ~~Mary Woolnoth~~ S. Mary Woolnorth church... breaking into a small Slures, rills & streams"*

*a Norman almost immediately after the Norman Conquest also speaks of the admirable water available in London – that was before the contamination by garbage of all sorts that was allowed later in the Middle Ages. until streams ~~only~~ on the Fleet & the Wallbrook were covered over with ~~[illegible]~~ stone

it requires ~~an~~ effort of the imagination to think of the Fleet was navigable for vessels from Roman times to some date in the Middle Ages, and I think the Wallbrook too.

Quintilis

so ~~[illegible]~~ ~~ante diem~~ pridie ~~Kal.~~ Julias ~~[illegible]~~ June 30th.

Apply to him writing in 1598 see page 162 ~~Date~~

I noted in typing I find one reference that on p. 135 I had named the two vessels 'The Margaret' & 'The Troy Queen' in honour of Princess Margaret & our reigning Monarch.

A similar allusion in I.P. page 66 "come with sweet princes by malignant interests deprived" shows that that I.P. was virtually finished by ~~[illegible]~~ 1934 – I completed it in Sidmouth after Nov. 1936. It also shows how upset I was at the time. It would take a hell of a lot of detective work to get it done. And now of him too we can say only Dona ei requiem sempiternam

⑨

Having mention P 66 of I.P. it might be as well
to mention that a number of errors ~~yet~~ have
never been corrected at least they remain in my copy
of the paper-back Faber edn of 1969. It was not
Faber's fault but the printers ~~for~~ they had the
correction but the printers did not do anything
about them., so that they were repeated in
the Chilmark U.S. edition.

Anyway line 13 of page 66 still reads
~~Prescribes~~ prescribed for proscribed
and line 16 reads martin-cat for marten-cat
and line 18 has gathering nuts & may for
gathering Knots of May – that was my fault
for I made that correction late.
Then a number of others, that I noticed
later & Bill Blissett gave a ~~[illegible]~~
list of all he could find.

lc k
& m

Tuesday
Sept 24

Your letter telling me of the safe arrival
of Angle Land typescript & accompanying letter
& copy of New Blackfriars with yr
wonderful piece in it – it was
bloody good of you to make that
for them – it's a great deal more than
they deserve. I do hope they paid you
properly. I'm sorry for the meandering
~~muddl~~ muddled stuff of the preceding
sheets of this bloody letter, ~~and asking~~
~~to regard~~ and shall now write a ~~[illegible]~~
~~[illegible]~~ new letter in the light of
what you say in yr letter received
yesterday with the New Blackfriars
& yr great kindness in ordering a
Cruden for me – ~~for it is not~~ my copy
is not here but with my stuff
left in ~~[illegible]~~ my room. That is what
makes things so difficult, for I have here
only a small number of the books
of reference. Well end of this letter
& will start on a fresh one
Dear Louis Bonnerot's widow is
coming this ~~aftern~~ afternoon.
My love to René & Joan
Dai.

Letter I.

written ~~[illegible]~~
(except for end bit)
before yrs of 15-9-74
with Blackmire had come
yesterday:
D